



Tanya D. Lane
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

ROY ZARTARIAN, MAYOR

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

**Conference Room L-101 – Town Hall
131 Cedar Street**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016
7:00 p.m. OR Following 6:30 p.m. Special Meeting**

Minutes

Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in conference room L-101, Town Hall.

Councilors Present

Councilor Anest
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor Manke
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel - Absent
Councilor Serra
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Present

Tanya Lane – Acting Town Manager
Ann Harter – Director of Finance
Chris Greenlaw - Town Engineer
Tom Molloy – Highway Superintendent
Craig Minor – Town Planner
Doug Jourdan – Building Inspector
Rob Hillman – Asst. Highway Superintendent
Lisa Rydecki – Deputy Director of Finance
Jaime Trevethan – Asst. to the Town Manager

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons thanked the departments for their hard work and requested that funding be put in place members of the various boards and commissions to attend important educational and training sessions.

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: Ms. Kenny requested that members of boards and commissions make annual reports to the Council.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

(Please see the 2016-17 Town Manager's Proposed Budget for details)

A. Budget Review: Public Works (Engineering, Highway, Solid Waste)Community Development and Improvements, Town Planner, ZBA, TPZ, Building Department, Conservation Commission, Economic Development)

The Town Council discussed the above budgets, staffing needs for the Engineering Department/Conservation Commission due to an increase in applications as well as various Low Impact Development (LID) projects.

Mrs. Harter indicated that the 2016-17 budget has a slight decrease in existing salaries due to the previous year being a leap year.

The Council discussed the Highway and Solid Waste budgets, including a request for a new Parts Coordinator position and anticipated overtime/seasonal personnel costs. Acting Town Manager Lane indicated that the former custodial position has been reallocated to the Facilities budget.

Deputy Mayor inquired about curb repairs following winter storms. Mr. Molloy indicated that while the plow drivers are as careful as possible with curbs, damage occurs each year, especially when a snow storm follows warmer weather. He stated that all curbing is in the process of being repaired and that the funding comes from the road repair account.

The Council discussed Highway overtime, which is budgeted as an average over a several year period.

The Council discussed the Highway department's duties regarding vehicle maintenance for Town vehicles, including fire trucks and police cars. They also discussed the leaf removal schedule, which may include Saturdays due to the weather and with the intent to collect leaves as early as possible and to avoid potential delays due to early snow. Mr. Molloy explained the leaf collection process and schedule. Councilor DelBuono inquired about leaf disposal. Mr. Molloy replied that there is not a demand for collected leaves and indicated that leaf composting is planned as part of the landfill closure.

The Council discussed trash and recycling collection and disposal. Councilor Budrejko stated that he has received complaints of non-residents utilizing bulk pickup. Mr. Hillman stated that pickups are usually done by request only and that the department keeps records to try to reduce abuse of the system. Mr. Molloy stated that requests for pickups are mostly scheduled via telephone and messages but are accepted via email. He stated that they prefer phone calls so that the staff can give the proper info to the residents.

The Council discussed the sale of collected scrap metal, which is allocated in the revenue portion of the budget.

B. Budget Review: Community Development and Improvement (Town Planner, ZBA, TPZ, Building Department, Conservation Commission, Economic Development)

The Council reviewed the above budgets, which includes a decrease in training. Acting Town Manager Lane indicated that there are no major changes to these budgets.

C. Budget Review: Health

The Council reviewed the Health District budget, which is calculated based on the population of each of the four member Towns (Newington, Wethersfield, Berlin and Rocky Hill).

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – Ms. Lyons remarked that it is nice to see the department heads at the meetings. She requested that the Council come up with a way to address residents' questions about the budget.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane - Mr. Bolles thanked the Acting Town Manager for her thorough presentation.

VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Marocchini noted that each departments' budget is very lean.

Mayor Zartarian requested that staff derive a mechanism to answer questions from the public. He also indicated that the first budget public hearing will be held on March 8 at 7:00 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Klett moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan
Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration